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LETTER DATED 28 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In connection with the recent occupation of Agdam district of Azerbaijan by Armenian military forces, I have the honour to give a brief description about this district of Azerbaijan and some facts about the brutality of recent events.

The district is situated to the north-east of the Karabakh ridge. The territory of the district constitutes 1,100 sq km. There are a city and 120 villages in the district. The population of the district before the Armenian-Azerbaijanian conflict began was approximately 150,000 (80 per cent of which was rural). During the last five years, tens of thousands of Azeri refugees from Armenia, Nagorny Karabakh and other regions of Azerbaijan, affected by the hostilities, have settled in Agdam district.

Agdam district and Agdam itself are situated at the crossroads of several very important airways, railroads and highways, such as the Yevlakh-Lachin-Nakhichevan and Agdere-Fizuli highways and the Yevlakh-Agdam, Agdam-Hankendi railroads. The Agdam airport served the Baku-Agdam flights and a number of local flights. Agdam was one of the centres of the food-processing and carpet-making industries and the vineyards of Azerbaijan.

The massive offenses of Armenian military forces against the administrative centre of the district - the city of Agdam with its population of almost 60,000 - began at 0700 hours. The city of Agdam was totally captured on 23 July 1993. Most of the city was destroyed by Armenian artillery. In the eastern part of the city, which has not suffered as severely under the shelling and bombing, Armenian soldiers pillaged and ransacked houses. On 27 July, Armenian troops burned most of the city. The exact number of those killed and injured is now being verified.

Agdam district borders with Nagorny Karabakh in the south-west, but the city of Agdam is 12 km away from the border. Thirty settlements in Agdam district have been occupied by Armenian armed forces and there are only 11 villages under the control of Azerbaijan. The distance between the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, and the city of Agdam is 360 km.

The occupation of Agdam district seriously damages the agriculture of Azerbaijan since the Agdam farms produced a great deal of the Republic's

livestock, wheat, grapes and cotton. In fact, about 400,000 acres of agricultural territories have been lost as a result of the Armenian offensive.

The occupation added a further hundred thousand refugees to the above figures. At present the total number of refugees in Azerbaijan is around 750,000.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative